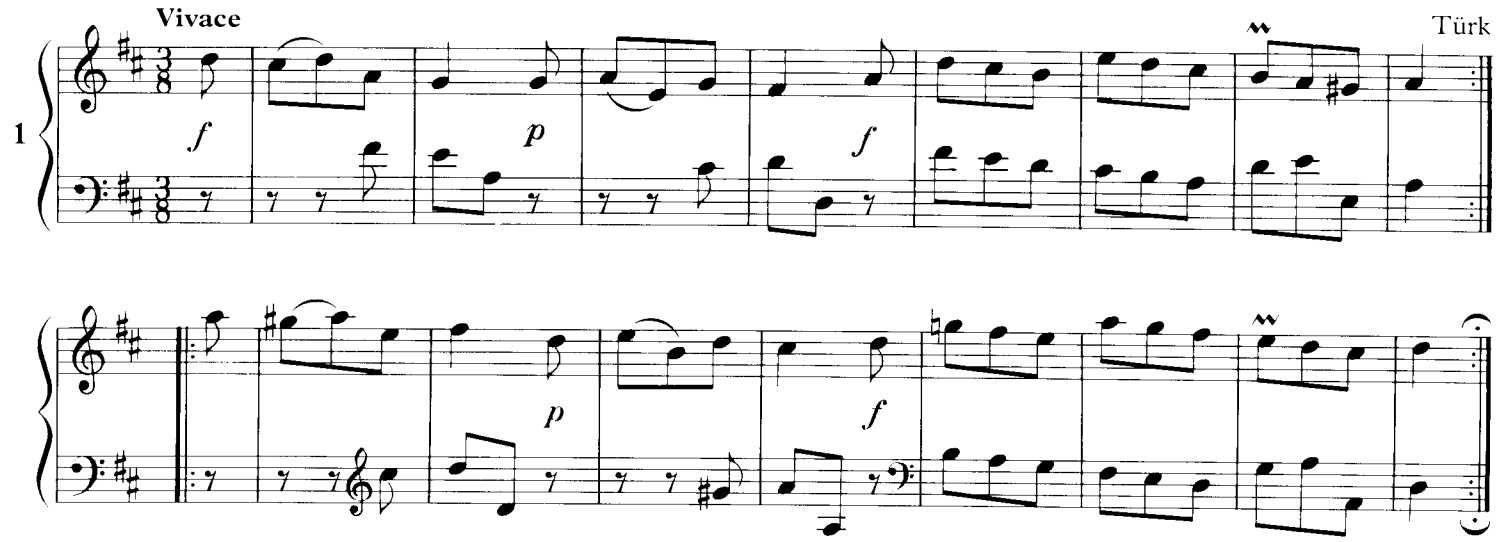
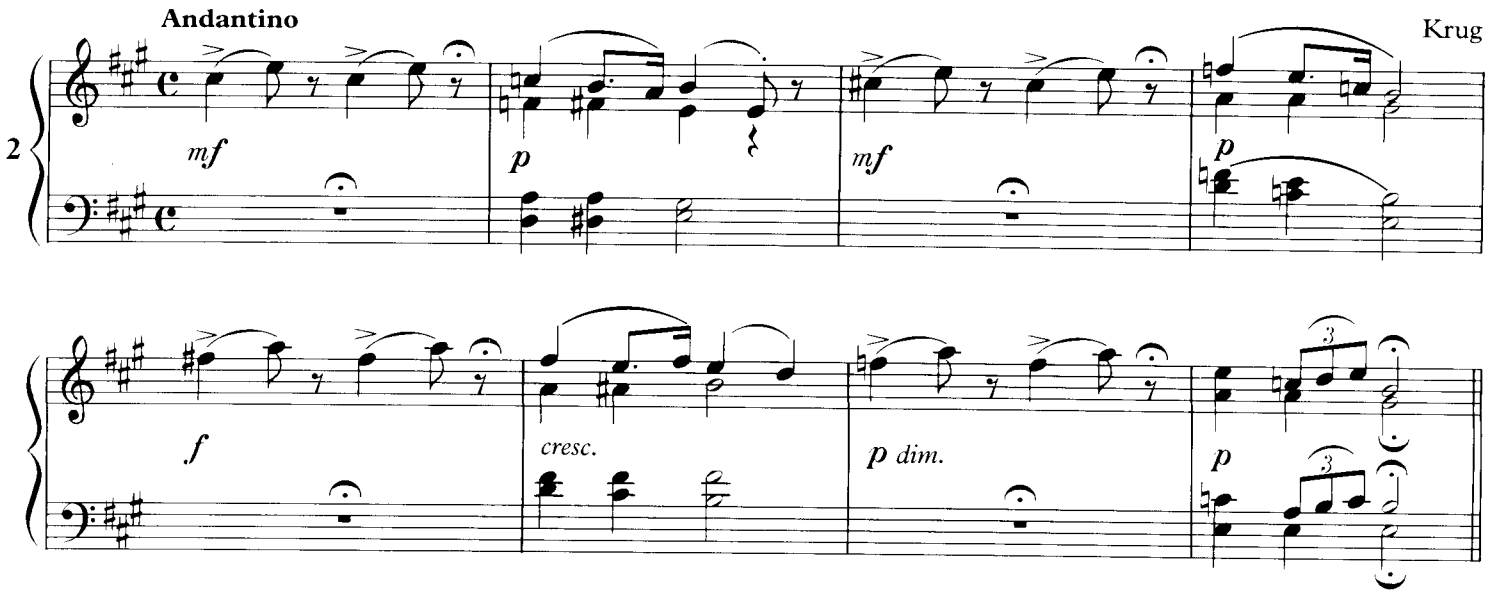
VISIT…

Test 1D: Identifying expressive qualities in performance

'To identify certain features of a piece played by the examiner. The features will be confined to contrasted dynamics (*p*/*f*), gradation of tone (*crescendo*/*diminuendo*) and articulation (*staccato*/*legato*), of which the examiner will select one or two and advise the candidate accordingly before playing the piece. Questions on the selected features will then follow. Candidates will be expected to use Italian terms in their answers where appropriate.'

When listening to music pupils will, if given regular practice, recognise the expressive qualities which make a musical and stylistic performance and thus become more sensitive themselves as performers.

In the following practice exercises, each of the three features is treated separately. Use of the Italian terms should be encouraged, starting with *piano* and *forte*.

PRACTICE EXERCISES: Contrast of dynamics (***p***/***f***)

There is no need for an exaggerated dynamic difference, but a clear differentiation between the two is obviously required in the performance if aural confidence is to be nurtured.